

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC ITEM 24 - RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING
THE STATUS OF TEACHERS: REPORT OF THE JOINT
ILO/UNESCO COMMITTEE (DOC. 19 C/23)

1. USDEL MAY VOTE FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CONTAINED
IN 100 EX/DR 6 WHICH WAS APPROVED WITH OUR SUPPORT BY 100
EX BOARD FOR 19 GC.

2. IF FURTHER AMENDMENTS OR RESOLUTIONS ARE PROPOSED UNDER
THIS ITEM, USDEL SHOULD USE OWN BEST JUDGEMENT IN LENDING
SUPPORT IF THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH ABOVE DR AND
FOLLOWING GUIDANCE.

-- WE ARE OPPOSED TO REVISING THE RECOMMENDATION AT THIS
TIME.

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-- WE ARE OPPOSED TO WIDENING THE SCOPE OF THE RECOMMENDA-

TION.

-- WE STRONGLY SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE EFFORTS BY UNESCO TO PUBLICIZE THE RECOMMENDATION AND ENCOURAGE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

3. USDEL MAY COMMEND THE JOINT ILO/UNESCO COMMITTEE FOR (RE: PARA 16 OF 100 EX/13) HAVING UTILIZED INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING TEACHERS OR THEIR EMPLOYERS AND FROM INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNESCO. THE US AGREES THAT IN THE FUTURE MORE RELIANCE WILL HAVE TO BE PLACED UPON INFORMATION FROM OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES.

4. USDEL MAY NOTE THAT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS PLEASED TO HOST THE 25TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND NOTE SECTION 3 OF THAT ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION WHICH STATED: THE WCOTP RESOLVES--

A. TO ASK BOTH UNESCO AND THE ILO TO ABIDE BY THEIR OWN RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS;

B. TO CONTINUE TO MOUNT TOTAL PRESSURE FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION, IN ALL COUNTRIES, OF THE ILO/UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON THE STATUS OF TEACHERS;

C. TO INTERVENE IN UNESCO, ILO AND OTHER DEBATES ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RECOMMENDATION;

D. TO URGE THAT UNESCO AND ILO AFFIRM AND SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE RECOMMENDATION IN ALL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS AT WHICH TOPICS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF TEACHERS ARE DISCUSSED;

E. TO REQUEST OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) AND THE WORLD BANK (IBRD) TO ABIDE BY THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE FORMULATION AND APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AID PROGRAMMES;
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F. TO MAKE VIGOROUS REPRESENTATION, BOTH FROM WCOTP AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, FOR FULL AND FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND STATISTICS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION, AND TO THE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS WHICH TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL POLICIES.

5. USDEL MAY DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING FOR COMMENT AS DESIRED. WE REGRET THAT ONLY 72 OUT OF 144 MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO AND ILO REPLIED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND THAT, IN SOME INSTANCES, RESPONSES FROM MEMBER STATES WERE SO INADEQUATE THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO DRAW USEFUL

CONCLUSIONS. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THIS EXERCISE UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING THE BEST PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN DRAFTING A NEW QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBER STATES TO ENSURE THAT IT IS WORTHWHILE AND PROFITABLE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT IS ONLY PRUDENT TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO A SMALL NUMBER OF TOPICS CAREFULLY SELECTED IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS ORGANIZATIONS.

6. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THEIR NEED TO UPDATE INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TAKING STEPS BEYOND THOSE PROPOSED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS TOWARD MAKING A REVISION AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE GENERAL NEED OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR FISCAL RESTRAINT. WE ARE OPPOSED TO WIDENING THE SCOPE OF THE RECOMMENDATION LEST, IN SO DOING, ITS PROVISIONS ARE WEAKENED SO THAT THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION WHICH IT MAY AFFORD AS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL, CONSULTATIVE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STATUS IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED. KISSINGER

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